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August 15, 1954

Personal and Confidential

Dear Phil:

I was profoundly touched by your letter of August 10, especially by the confidence in me -- I am afraid misplaced -- which it expressed on the part of yourself and Mr. Meyer.

When I was younger, the idea of such an association with the Post, under your direction, would have appealed irresistibly to me. Today, ascribe my reluctance, and in fact opposition, to assume any novel responsibilities to lassitude or what you will.

The truth is I have no desire for anything other than complete freedom, once I am quit of my present position, from all obligations other than those of a family nature. I do not delude myself into thinking I have any talent that has been denied expression as a consequence of having had little leisure thus far in my life. But I do intend, as my imagination now runs, to refuse indefinitely to face a definite future.

Do not think me, my dear Phil, in any degree unappreciative of what you and Mr. Meyer have so attractively and generously proposed. I am honored by your thought. My admiration for your father-in-law, and my real affection for you have made an adverse decision in this regard no light thing. We will now forget it and, with the exception of having consulted Evangeline, I shall mention it to no one.

As regards my own plans, I continue dependent on the whimsies of French domestic politics. We had expected to be home by October first. This goal is not feasible but, come what may, we shall be your neighbors by Christmas.

Mendès-France presented yesterday his program for consideration at Brussels. It is quite terrible. As André de Staercke terms it, "The French have massacred European unity and are sending the corpse to Brussels." Now the only hope is to have the other Governments stand firm and see what may transpire. I am going up to Bonn tomorrow night to see Adenauer, who is, I am certain, discouraged to the last degree by this chauvinistic document.

Much love from us both to Kay and yourself,

Ever yours,

DAVID

I wish you and Kay were to be here in September. We are going to take trips as soon as the French Parliament recesses, and are equally agreeable to Ireland or Majorca or points between.

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